

McAdams
Serial no. 09/921,841
Filed 8/2/2001
Attorney docket no. BEA920010012US1

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In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:
instructing by a base node of a coalesced system to at least one other node of the coalesced system to start a process related to private memory that is firmware, each of the base node and the at least one other node including one or more processors, memory, and input/output (I/O) modules, the process relating to updating the firmware of the at least one other node;
starting the process by each of the at least one other node on each of the at least one other node, the process accessing private memory that is firmware on each of the at least one other node; and,
reporting back results of the process by each of the at least one other node to the base node,
wherein the method is performed without rebooting of any of the at least one other node, such that the firmware of the at least one other node is updated without rebooting of any of the at least one other node.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further initially comprising receiving a request from a user to perform system-wide functionality related to private memory that is firmware, the process related to private memory that is firmware based on the system-wide functionality requested.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further initially comprising starting the process by the base node on the base node, the process accessing private memory that is firmware of the base node.

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4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising prior to starting the process by each of the at least one other node, receiving instruction from the base node by each of the at least one other node to start the process related to private memory that is firmware.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the results of the process from each of the at least one other node by the base node.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising reporting the results received back from each of the at least one other node by the base node to a user having previously requested system-wide functionality related to private memory that is firmware be performed, the process related to private memory that is firmware based on the system-wide functionality requested.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein instructing by the base node to the at least one other node to start the process related to private memory that is firmware comprises one of multicasting a start-process message by the base node to the at least one other node and unicasting the start-process message by the base node to each of the at least one other node.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein instructing by the base node to the at least one other node to start the process related to private memory that is firmware comprises creating a parent process by the base node at the base node and creating a child process by the parent process at each of the at least one other node.
9. (cancelled)
10. (currently amended) A system comprising:

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a plurality of nodes coalesced to function as the system and divided into a base node allowing direct user interaction therewith and other nodes allowing indirect user interaction therewith through the base node, each node including one or more processors, memory, and input/output (I/O) modules; and,

private memory that is firmware at each of the plurality of nodes, the private memory that is firmware of a node accessible only by the node,

the base node governing performance by each of the plurality of nodes of a process related to private memory that is firmware of each of the plurality of nodes to effectuate user-initiated, system-wide performance of functionality related to private memory that is firmware, the process related to private memory that is firmware based on the functionality initiated and relating to updating the firmware of each of the plurality of nodes, the functionality not resulting in rebooting of any of the plurality of nodes, such that the firmware of each of the plurality of nodes is updated without rebooting of any of the plurality of nodes.

11. (original) The system of claim 10, further comprising a network to which each of the plurality of nodes is connected such that the network assists coalescing of the plurality of nodes as the system.

12. (original) The system of claim 10, further comprising at least one of a keyboard and a display connected to the base node to assist direct user interaction with the base node.

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein at least one of the plurality of nodes each comprise a non-computer device having a processor in addition to having the private memory that is firmware.

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15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the base node governs the performance by each of the plurality of nodes of the process to effectuate the user-initiated, system-wide performance of functionality related to private memory that is firmware by employing a multi-processor protocol (MPP).

17. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the MPP is part of one of an operating system (OS) of the base node and boot-time services of the base node.

18. (currently amended) An article comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and,

means in the medium for governing performance by each of a plurality of nodes coalesced to function as a system of a process related to private memory that is firmware of each of the plurality of nodes, to effectuate user-initiated, system-wide performance of functionality related to private memory that is firmware, the process related to private memory that is firmware based on the functionality initiated and related to updating the firmware of each of the plurality of nodes, the functionality not resulting in rebooting of any of the plurality of nodes, such that the firmware of the plurality of nodes is updated without rebooting of any of the plurality of nodes,
wherein each of the plurality of nodes includes one or more processors, memory, and input/output (I/O) modules.

19. (previously presented) The article of claim 18, wherein the medium is a recordable data storage medium.

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20. (cancelled)